## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PASS-00 INR-07 IO-13 MED-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 DHA-02 SCA-01 OES-06 USIA-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00 AID-05 DODE-00 /072 W

R 280655Z APR 77 FM AMCONSUL KADUNA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3579 INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS AMCONSUL IBADAN

UNCLAS KADUNA 0454

E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: SWEL, NI

SUBJECT: REPORTED OUTBREAK OF CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

DEPARTMENT PASS CDC ATLANTA

- 1. ACCORDING TO FRONT PAGE ARTICLE IN APRIL 27 NEW NIGERIAN NEWSPAPER, AT LEAST 128 PEOPLE HAVE DIED FROM RECENT OUTBREAK OF CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS (CSM) IN PARTS OF NORTHERN NIGERIA. ARTICLE REPORTS THAT 1,530 CSM PATIENTS, OF WHICH 75 DIED, HAVE BEEN ADMITTED TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL IN KANO DURING LAST 25 DAYS. OTHER REPORTED DEATHS INCLUDED 40 IN ZARIA AND 13 IN KADUNA.
- 2. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, EPIDEMIC OF CSM, CAUSED BY DROPLET INFECTION, IS RESULT OF HEAVY HARMATTAN DUST AND LATE COMING OF RAINS THIS YEAR. INITIAL SYMPTOMS GENERALLY INCLUDE FEVER, HEADACHE AND NECK PAINS.
- 3. FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL HARSHLY CASTIGATES HEALTH OFFICIALS FOR NOT INFORMING PUBLIC OF THIS EPIDEMIC DURING PAST MONTH. NEWSPAPER CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON NATURE UNCLASSIFIED

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OF EPIDEMIC, SPECIFIC SYMPTOMS OF DISEASE, AND PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO HALT ITS SPREAD.

4. REGIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER FROM LAGOS IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE KADUNA THIS AFTERNOON ON ROUTINE VISIT, AND HE WILL BE ASKED TO OBTAIN ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM DOCTORS ATTENDING ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF NIGERIAN MEDICAL

ASSOCIATION	IN	PROGRESS	HERE
BURKE			

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED CDC ATLANTA.

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